

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

## Report

**Subject** : Poultry Cross – Recommendations for Repair  
**Committee** : Environmental Services & Climate Committee  
**Date** : 10 Oct 2022  
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### 1. Introduction:

- 1.1. This report sets out the recommendations for areas of repair and conservation on the Poultry Cross.
- 1.2. These recommendations are above and beyond the works being carried out as a result of the collision in May 2022, and are not covered by the Council's insurance.

### 2. Background:

- 2.1. In 2017, Louise Salman (Conservation Architect) was commissioned by Salisbury City Council to undertake a Condition Report on the Poultry Cross. This set out the current condition of the monument and works required along with ideal timescales (within 2 years, 5 years, 10 years etc). None of the works recommended have yet been undertaken due to other Council budget priorities.
- 2.2. In May 2022, a car collided with the Poultry Cross causing significant damage to the southernmost buttress, the structural integrity of the monument was compromised and a full structural scaffold was erected around and within the masonry structure.
- 2.3. The presence of the structural scaffold for the essential repairs to the damaged buttress could enable other conservation repairs to be carried out at the same time and would be the most cost effective way for the Council to attend to these works.
- 2.4. Historic England support this approach in ensuring the protection of a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade I Listed Building.

### 3. Recommendations for works to be undertaken from current structural scaffold:

- 3.1. Given that no works have been carried out since the 2017 Condition Report, much of its content remains valid and up to date. However, close inspection from the current scaffold has enabled inspection at close quarters and therefore the following recommendations have been made.

Area	Scope of Work
High-level electric cabling fixed to pinnacle:	Remove cabling wrapped around north eastern pinnacle. Refix elsewhere – current location could compromise pinnacle creating a risk to those below.
High level masonry: (flying buttresses, central shaft)	It would be logical to plan the work strategically, working top down. It would be beneficial to start right at the top to establish the stability of the cross right at the top. Light cleaning and mortar repairs might then be possible here, to the central shaft and flying buttresses.
Roof coverings:	The lead roof below is clearly of some age. It is possible that the lead

	dates from the alterations in 1852, in which case it is likely beyond its serviceable life. There are minor cracks and signs of previous repair to this and the asphalt around the base. The timbers below would give a better idea of how effective this roof covering is and whether it warrants repair at this stage? (Current scaffold restricts access to roof timbers)
Parapet:	The parapet balustrade is cracked and weathered. A light clean/brush would better reveal its current condition. Assume there is probably a need for some pinning and mortar repairs required to all six bays between buttresses. The pinnacles to the top of all six buttresses need to be checked for stability and to ensure firm fixing (especially the one wrapped in cable!) Previous loose failing mortar repairs need to be removed to ensure they do not fall and cause damage below. Aging loose repairs are seen in the balustrade and also in the edges of the hooded niches in the centre of each bay above the apex of the arches below.

3.2. The estimated cost of works described above is £40,000 - £50,000.

3.3. There is no allocated budget in 2022/2023 for these repair works and, if agreed, these works would need to be funded from the Council's reserves.

#### 4. Recommendations for works to be undertaken following the removal of current structural scaffold:

Area	Scope of Work
Buttresses:	Each buttress would need to be addressed in turn, but could be undertaken in priority order. A light clean/brush would better reveal current condition. Assume there is probably a need for some repointing and mortar repairs (costed by linear metre?)
Stone arched bays between buttresses: external and internal faces:	Each buttress would need to be addressed in turn, but could be undertaken in priority order. A light clean/brush would better reveal current condition. Assume there is probably a need for some repointing and mortar repair (costed by linear metre?)
Internal stone shaft and carved work:	The seat at the base is cracked and in need of repair, the carved angels require conservation and repair
Timber roof structure:	The condition of the timbers needs to be fully understood. Both at their bearing ends set in the masonry and general condition- Any water ingress will accelerate decay so it would be necessary to carry out any roofing repairs that might be causing this.
New measures to prevent future damage	Consider measures to protect monument from vehicular traffic

4.1. The estimated cost of works described above is £50,000 - £60,000.

4.2. There is no budget allocated in 2022/2023 for these repair works, and it is suggested that provision be made in future year's capital budgets.

## 5. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 5.1. Approve, in principle, the repairs as set out in para 3 of this report.
- 5.2. Make a recommendation to the next Finance & Governance Committee that these works be funded by use of the Council's reserves
- 5.3. Make a recommendation to the Finance & Governance Committee that the further works as shown in para 4 of this report are fully considered in the Council's future capital budgets programme.

## 6. Implications:

- 6.1. **Financial:** As outlined in the report.
- 6.2. **Legal:** None in relation to this report.
- 6.3. **Personnel:** None in relation to this report.
- 6.4. **Environmental Impact:** None in relation to this report.
- 6.5. **Equality Impact Statement:** None in relation to this report